

# Law Office of Nora J. Chorover

nchorover@choroverlaw.com

RECEIVED  
JUN - 3 2015  
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

May 27, 2015

## **BY CERTIFIED MAIL**

Theodore J. Ondrick  
Ted Ondrick Company, LLC  
58 Industry Road  
Chicopee, MA 01020  
Certified Mail #: 7013 2250 0000 2096 4405

Theodore W. Ondrick  
240 Chicopee, LLC  
22 Industry Road  
Chicopee, MA 01020  
Certified Mail #: 7013 2250 0000 2096 4412

Re: 60-Day Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit Regarding Noncompliance  
with Federal Clean Water Act's Industrial Stormwater Discharge Requirements:  
240 Chicopee Street, Granby, Massachusetts

Dear Messrs. Ondrick:

This office represents Clean Water Action, a national non-profit citizens' organization working for prevention of pollution in the nation's waters. Clean Water Action has over one million members nationally, more than 50,000 of whom reside in Massachusetts.

We write to give notice that Clean Water Action intends to file a civil action in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts under section 505 of the Federal Clean Water Act (the "Act") against Ted Ondrick Company and 240 Chicopee, LLC ("Ted Ondrick"). The subject of the action will be Ted Ondrick's unlawful discharge of stormwater from its mineral mining and dressing facility on Chicopee Street in Granby (the "Facility"). Stormwater from the Facility is discharged into Stony Brook/Muddy Brook, and its adjacent wetlands. Stony Brook flows to the Connecticut River. Ted Ondrick has not submitted a Notice of Intent ("NOI") to be covered by EPA's reissued Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity.

## **BACKGROUND**

Activities that take place at industrial facilities, such as material handling and storage, are often exposed to the weather. As runoff from rain or snowmelt comes into contact with these materials, it picks up pollutants and transports them to nearby rivers, lakes, or coastal waters and tributaries thereto, including but not limited to storm sewer systems, wetlands, and other surface

waters. Stormwater pollution is a significant source of water quality problems for the nation's waters.

The following are *some* of the activities, pollutant sources and pollutants that may be present with Ted Ondrick's mineral mining and dressing processes:

Activity	Pollutant Source	Pollutant
Site Preparation	Road construction, removal of overburden, removal of waste rock to expose the mineral body	Dust, TSS, TDS, turbidity
Mineral Extraction	Blasting activities	Dust, TSS
Mineral Processing	Rock sorting, rock crushing, rock washing, raw material storage, waste rock storage, raw material loading, processing materials unloading, raw or waste material transportation	Dust, TSS, TDS, turbidity, fines, pH, fossil fuel, oil, lime
Other Activities	Sedimentation pond upsets, sedimentation pond sludge removal and disposal, air emission control cleaning	Dust, TSS, TDS, turbidity, pH
Equipment/Vehicle Maintenance	Fueling activities, parts cleaning, waste disposal (oily rags, oil and gas filters, batteries, coolants, degreasers), fluid replacement (including hydraulic fluid, oil, transmission fluid, radiator fluids, and grease)	Diesel/gas fuel, oil, solvents, heavy metals, acid/alkaline wastes
Reclamation Activities	Site preparation for stabilization, fertilizers	Dust, TSS, TDS, turbidity, nitrogen, phosphorous

Ted Ondrick Company  
May 27, 2015  
Page 3

Clean Water Action will ask the Court to ensure Ted Ondrick's future compliance with the Act, assess civil penalties in an appropriate amount,<sup>1</sup> award plaintiff its litigation costs, including attorney and expert fees, and award any other relief the Court deems appropriate. Clean Water Action's complaint will be filed a minimum of 60 days after the postmark date of this letter. This is a formal 60-day notice of intent to sue that is being served pursuant to 40 C.F.R., Part 135.

This notice is being provided by:

Cindy Luppi, New England Regional Co-Director  
Clean Water Action  
262 Washington Street, Suite 301  
Boston, MA 02108  
(617) 338-8131  
(617) 335-6449 (fax)

Counsel for Clean Water Action in this case is:  
Nora J. Chorover  
Law Office of Nora J. Chorover  
11 Green Street  
Boston, MA 02130  
617-477-3550

## **TED ONDRICK'S VIOLATIONS AND DATES OF VIOLATIONS**

### **A. THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ACT**

#### **1. Pollutant Discharges without a Permit are Illegal.**

The Clean Water Act makes the discharge of pollution into waters of the United States unlawful unless the discharge is in compliance with certain statutory requirements, including the requirement that the discharge be permitted by the federal Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") under the National Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES").

---

<sup>1</sup> The Statute authorizes the Court to assess a penalty of up to \$37,500 a day for each violation. See 33 U.S.C. § 1319(d) and 78 Fed. Reg. 66647 (Nov. 6, 2013).

2. Mineral Mining and Dressing Facilities Must Comply with EPA's General Industrial Stormwater Permit.

In order to minimize polluted stormwater discharges from certain categories of industrial facilities, EPA has issued a general industrial stormwater permit (the "Permit").<sup>2</sup> Active and inactive mineral mining and dressing facilities are subject to the requirements of this Permit.<sup>3</sup> Mineral mining and dressing facilities which carry on other types of activities also subject to the requirements of the Permit must also comply with any sector-specific requirements for such co-located industrial activity.<sup>4</sup>

3. Mineral Mining and Dressing Facilities Must Develop and Implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan ("SWPPP").

An owner or operator (hereafter referred to as "operator") of a facility subject to the requirements of the Permit must prepare a SWPPP before being authorized to discharge under the Permit.<sup>5</sup> The SWPPP must be "prepared in accordance with good engineering practices"<sup>6</sup> and, among other things,

- identify potential sources of pollution at the facility;<sup>7</sup>
- describe and ensure implementation of control measures that are technologically available and economically practicable and achievable in light of best industry practice;<sup>8</sup> and
- set forth specific procedures to assure compliance with effluent limitations and monitoring/inspection requirements of the Permit.<sup>9</sup>

4. Mineral Mining and Dressing Facilities Must Submit to EPA a Notice of Intent to be covered by the Permit By EPA's Established Deadlines.

After completing and implementing its SWPPP,<sup>10</sup> a Mineral Mining and Dressing facility must submit to EPA a Notice of Intent ("NOI") to be covered by the Permit. EPA's initial NOI

---

<sup>2</sup> The Permit expired on September 29, 2013, but has been administratively continued by its own terms for facilities that were previously permitted.

<sup>3</sup> Permit, page 79; Permit, Appendix D, pg. D-4;

<sup>4</sup> Permit, pg. 79.

<sup>5</sup> Permit, Section 5 and Section 8.E.3.

<sup>6</sup> Permit, pg. 12 (referring to "control measures").

<sup>7</sup> Permit, pgs. 27-28.

<sup>8</sup> Permit, pgs. 12, 28-29.

<sup>9</sup> Permit, pgs. 29-30.

<sup>10</sup> Permit, pg. 25 ("You must prepare a SWPPP for your facility before submitting your Notice of Intent (NOI) for permit coverage.").

filing deadline was January 1, 1996.<sup>11</sup> When the agency reissued the Permit in 2008, it reminded operators of subject facilities that unpermitted stormwater discharges are “unauthorized,” and ordered all subject facilities to file an NOI for the 2008 permit by January 5, 2009.<sup>12</sup>

5. Mineral Mining and Dressing Facilities Must Comply with the Terms of the Permit.

The Permit requires mineral mining and dressing facilities to, among other things:

- a. ensure that stormwater discharges meet applicable water quality standards;<sup>13</sup>
- b. reduce and/or eliminate pollutants to the extent achievable using control measures (including best management practices) that are technologically available and economically practicable and achievable in light of best industry practice;<sup>14</sup>
- c. implement specific best management practices set forth in the Permit for mineral mining and dressing facilities;<sup>15</sup>
- d. monitor stormwater discharges for compliance with benchmark limitations and effluent limitations applicable to mineral mining and dressing facilities;<sup>16</sup>
- e. perform regular facility and stormwater inspections;<sup>17</sup>
- f. report on monitoring and inspections to EPA by specified deadlines;<sup>18</sup> and
- g. comply with those permit conditions applicable to permittees in Massachusetts, including but not limited to
  - i. submission of monitoring results to the Regional Office of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (“MADEP”) for the MADEP Region in which the Facility is located, where the monitoring identifies exceedences of any effluent limits or benchmarks for which monitoring is required under the Permit,

---

<sup>11</sup> See 60 Fed. Reg. 50804.

<sup>12</sup> Permit, pg. 9 (unpermitted discharges from the facility will continue to be “unauthorized” unless allowed under the Permit). See also 40 C.F.R. §122.28(b)(2)(i) (“A discharger ... who fails to submit a notice of intent in accordance with the terms of the permit is not authorized to discharge ....”).

<sup>13</sup> Permit, pg. 16 (“Your discharge must be controlled as necessary to meet applicable water quality standards.”).

<sup>14</sup> Permit, pg. 12.

<sup>15</sup> Permit, pgs. 79-84.

<sup>16</sup> Permit, pg. 84-85. Ted Ondrick was required to monitor for Total Suspended Solids (“TSS”) and Nitrate plus Nitrite Nitrogen iron for compliance with benchmark limits. Any mine dewatering discharges were subject to effluent limitations on levels of pH. If the company performs sand mining, its mine dewatering discharges must comply with TSS effluent limits.

<sup>17</sup> Permit, pgs. 20-25.

<sup>18</sup> Permit, pgs. 41-43.

- ii. where effluent limits and/or benchmarks are exceeded, submission to the MADEP Regional Office of any follow-up monitoring and a description of the corrective actions required and undertaken to meet those effluent limits and/or benchmarks, and
- iii. continued benchmark monitoring until all four of the quarterly monitoring samples meet the benchmarks rather than the average of the four.<sup>19</sup>

B. TED ONDRICK'S VIOLATIONS AND DATES OF VIOLATIONS

Clean Water Action's complaint will address violations that occurred during the last five years.

1. Violations that Have Occurred on Specific Days During the Last Five Years: Discharges of Stormwater from the Facility Without a NPDES permit

Ted Ondrick's violations of the Act's prohibition against unpermitted discharges occurred and are continuing to occur at the Facility each time rain, snow melt or another factor results in industrial stormwater discharges from the Facility to waters of the United States. The days during the last five years on which rain caused stormwater to be discharged from the Facility to waters of the United States are listed on Exhibit A hereto. Clean Water Action's complaint will also address any non-permitted stormwater discharge violations that occurred or occur between the last date listed on Exhibit A, and the date on which the complaint is filed.

2. Violations that Have Occurred on Each Day During the Last Five Years.<sup>20</sup>

The following violations of the Act are set forth on Exhibit B. These violations have occurred on a daily basis for the last five years and they are continuing to occur.

- a. failure to prepare and implement a SWPPP;
- b. failure to submit a NOI to be covered by the Permit;
- c. failure to ensure that stormwater discharges from the Facility will not cause or have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standards;
- d. failure to implement adequate control measures;
- e. failure to monitor for compliance with benchmark limitations;

---

<sup>19</sup> Permit, pgs. 140-141.

<sup>20</sup> Clean Water Action believes that the violations set forth in this Section B.2 have occurred on each day of the last five years, and not just on rain days. However, to the extent it is determined that rain days are relevant in determining the dates of violations, such rain dates through May 30, 2015 are set forth on Exhibit A hereto. The complaint, when filed, will set forth additional rain dates since May 30, 2015.

Ted Ondrick Company  
May 27, 2015  
Page 7

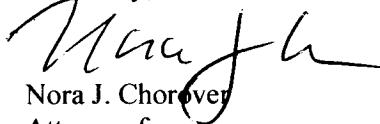
- f. failure to monitor for compliance with effluent limitations;
- g. failure to report monitoring results for the Facility to EPA by the specific deadlines;
- h. failure to perform annual comprehensive site inspections, and
- i. failure to complete and submit annual reports.

To the extent that Ted Ondrick is carrying out any other industrial activity at the Facility which is also subject to the requirements of the Permit, then Ted Ondrick's failure to comply with the Permit requirements for such co-located activities is also a violation of the Clean Water Act.

### **CONCLUSION**

Clean Water Action believes this Notice of Violations and Intent to File Suit sufficiently states the basis for a civil action. During the 60-day notice period, we would be willing to discuss effective remedies for the violations noted in this letter that may avoid the necessity of litigation. If you wish to pursue such discussions, please have your attorney contact us within the next 20 days so that negotiations may be completed before the end of the 60-day notice period. We do not intend to delay the filing of a complaint in federal court if discussions are continuing when that period ends.

Sincerely,



Nora J. Chorover  
Attorney for  
CLEAN WATER ACTION

cc: (by certified mail)

Curt Spalding, Regional Administrator  
EPA New England, Region 1,  
5 Post Office Square, Ste. 100  
Boston MA 02109  
Certified Mail # 7013 2250 0000 2096 4191

Gina McCarthy, Administrator  
US EPA Headquarters, Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460  
Certified Mail # 7014 3490 0000 7429 7551

Martin Suuberg, Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of  
Environmental Protection  
One Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
Certified Mail # 7013 2250 0000 2096 4207





**EXHIBIT A**

DAYS BETWEEN  
JUNE 1, 2010 AND MAY 31, 2015  
ON WHICH STORMWATER FROM FACILITY  
DISCHARGED TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Note that on numerous days in the last five years during the months of November, December, January, February, March and April, snowmelt discharged from the facility. Snowmelt discharges are also subject to the permitting, monitoring, reporting and inspection requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act. See Stormwater Permit, sections 2.1.2.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 6.1.3, and 6.1.4. The company violated the Act on each day on which snowmelt discharges occurred. The days listed on this Exhibit A are days on which it rained in excess of .2 inches as measured at the Westover Metropolitan Airport.

June 2010:	5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13
July 2010:	16, 23, 29
August 2010:	5, 9, 22
September 2010:	30
October 2010:	1, 6, 15, 27
November 2010:	4, 5, 17
December 2010:	1
January 2011:	
February 2011:	
March 2011:	6, 11,
April 2011:	4, 13, 16, 17, 19
May 2011:	15, 17, 18, 19
June 2011:	1, 11, 14, 22, 23, 25
July 2011:	25, 26
August 2011:	7, 9, 14, 15, 25, 27
September 2011:	6, 7, 8, 22, 23, 28, 29
October 2011:	4, 13, 14, 20
November 2011:	10, 16, 22, 23, 29
December 2011:	7, 8, 21, 23, 27
January 2012:	27
February 2012:	
March 2012:	3
April 2012:	22, 23
May 2012:	1, 3, 8, 10, 15
June 2012:	2, 3, 13
July 2012:	2, 24, 28, 29
August 2012:	5, 10, 15, 28
September 2012:	2, 5, 8, 18, 22, 28
October 2012:	4, 15, 19, 29
November 2012:	13
December 2012:	8, 9, 10, 17, 18
January 2013:	11
February 2013:	
March 2013:	12
April 2013:	1, 10, 12, 20
May 2013:	8, 11, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29
June 2013:	2, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 24, 28, 29
July 2013:	1, 23, 26
August 2013:	1, 9, 13, 26, 27
September 2013:	1, 2, 10, 12, 22
October 2013:	4, 6, 7
November 2013:	27
December 2013:	23, 29

January 2014: 11, 14  
February 2014: 21  
March 2014: 12, 20, 29, 30  
April 2014: 8, 26, 30  
May 2014: 1, 10, 17, 22, 23,  
June 2014: 5, 13, 26  
July 2014: 2, 3, 4, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 23, 27  
August 2014: 13, 22, 27, 31  
September 2014: 6, 13  
October 2014: 1, 4, 8, 16, 18, 22, 23  
November 2014: 24  
December 2014: 3, 6, 17, 24  
January 2015: 4  
February 2015:  
March 2015: 14, 26  
April 2015: 3, 4, 8, 10, 20, 21  
May 2015:



**EXHIBIT B**  
**TABLE OF TED ONDRICK'S VIOLATIONS**  
June 1, 2010 to the present

<u>Type of Violation</u>	<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Beginning Date of Violation</u>	<u>Earliest End Date of Violation</u>
Failure to Prepare and Implement a SWPPP	n/a	June 1, 2010	Present
Failure to Submit NOI to be Covered by the Permit	n/a	June 1, 2010	Present
Failure to Ensure that Discharges Will Not Violate Water Quality Standards	n/a	June 1, 2010	Present
Failure to Implement Adequate Control Measures	TSS	June 1, 2010	Present
Failure to Implement Adequate Control Measures	Iron	June 1, 2010	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: April – June QTR of 2010	All	June 30, 2010	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: April – June QTR of 2010	All	July 31, 2010	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: July – September QTR 2010	All	September 30, 2010	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: July – September QTR 2010	All	October 31, 2010	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: October – December QTR 2010	All	December 31, 2010	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: October – December QTR 2010	All	January 31, 2011	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: January – March QTR 2011	All	March 31, 2011	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: January – March QTR 2011	All	April 30, 2011	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: April – June QTR 2011	All	June 30, 2011	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: April – June QTR 2011	All	July 31, 2011	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: July – September QTR 2011	All	September 30, 2011	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: July – September QTR 2011	All	October 31, 2011	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: October – December QTR 2011	All	December 31, 2011	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: October – December QTR 2011	All	January 31, 2012	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: January – March QTR 2012	All	March 31, 2012	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: January – March QTR 2012	All	April 30, 2012	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: April – June QTR 2012	All	June 30, 2012	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: April – June QTR 2012	All	July 31, 2012	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: July – September QTR 2012	All	September 30, 2012	Present

Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: July – September QTR 2012	All	October 31, 2012	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: October – December QTR 2012	All	December 31, 2012	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: October – December QTR 2012	All	January 31, 2013	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: January – March QTR 2013	All	March 31, 2013	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: January – March QTR 2013	All	April 30, 2013	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: April – June QTR 2013	All	June 30, 2013	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: April – June QTR 2013	All	July 31, 2013	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: July – September QTR 2013	All	September 30, 2013	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: July – September QTR 2013	All	October 31, 2013	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: October – December QTR 2013	All	December 31, 2013	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: October – December QTR 2013	All	January 31, 2014	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: January – March QTR 2014	All	March 31, 2014	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: January – March QTR 2014	All	April 30, 2014	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: April – June QTR 2014	All	June 30, 2014	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: April – June QTR 2014	All	July 31, 2014	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: July – September QTR 2014	All	September 30, 2014	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: July – September QTR 2014	All	October 31, 2014	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: October – December QTR 2014	All	December 31, 2014	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: October – December QTR 2014	All	January 31, 2015	Present
Failure to Conduct Benchmark Monitoring: January – March QTR 2015	All	March 31, 2015	Present
Failure to Report Results of Benchmark Monitoring: January – March QTR 2015	All	April 30, 2015	Present
Failure to Conduct Comprehensive Site Inspection	n/a	September 29, 2010	Present
Failure to Conduct Comprehensive Site Inspection	n/a	September 29, 2011	Present
Failure to Conduct Comprehensive Site Inspection	n/a	September 29, 2012	Present
Failure to Conduct Comprehensive Site Inspection	n/a	September 29, 2013	Present
Failure to Conduct Comprehensive Site Inspection	n/a	September 29, 2014	Present
Failure to Submit Annual Report	n/a	November 13, 2010	Present
Failure to Submit Annual Report	n/a	November 13, 2011	Present
Failure to Submit Annual Report	n/a	November 13, 2012	Present
Failure to Submit Annual Report	n/a	November 13, 2013	Present
Failure to Submit Annual Report	n/a	November 13, 2014	Present